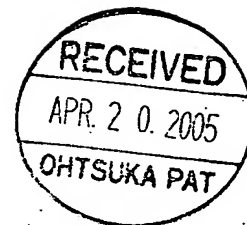


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty) (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference P204-0118WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005233	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 23.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int.Cl. ⁷ H04L12/28, G06F3/12		
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a total of <u>4</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets, as follows: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. </div> </div> b. <input type="checkbox"/> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____ containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application </div>

Date of submission of the demand 08.11.2004	Date of completion of this report 07.04.2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Tutomu Nakaki Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3556

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/005233

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

- ☒ the description:

pages 1-22 _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☒ the claims:

pages 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* 1-5, 7, 10, 13 _____ received by this Authority on 08.11.2004

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☒ the drawings:

pages 1-10 _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations(Rule 70.7)

The following document has been considered for the purpose of this report:

D1 = [JP 2002-244829 A]

D2 = [JP 2003-091467 A]

D3 = [JP 2003-085548 A]

Document 1 discloses

A connection control method for an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a step of inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly connected wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses have a function of performing predetermined processing(step203:fig2).

Document 2 discloses

a step of receiving identification information for identifying each network out of a plurality of wireless network.

Document 3 discloses

one of the other information processing apparatuses which has first positively responded is controlled to be connected.

The subject matter of claim 1-13 is considered to involve an inventive step over D1, D2 and D3 for the following reasons:

The above references fail to disclose inquiring of other information processing apparatuses in a joined wireless network whether the other information processing apparatuses have a predetermined function, and joining in another wireless network in accordance with a response of the inquiry, as recited in the claimed invention.

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JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 SEP 2009

1.(Amended) A connection control method for an
information processing apparatus, comprising:

5 a step of receiving identification information
for identifying each wireless network out of a
plurality of wireless networks;

a step of wirelessly joining in a wireless
network identified by the identification information;

10 a step of inquiring, of other information
processing apparatuses in the wirelessly joined
wireless network, whether the other information
processing apparatuses have a function of performing
predetermined processing; and

15 a step of joining in another wireless network
identified by the other identification information in
accordance with the response to the inquiry.

2.(Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein
in the step of controlling, when the response to the
20 inquiry is a positive response, one of the other
information processing apparatuses which has positively
responded is controlled to be connected.

3.(Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein
25 one of the other information processing apparatuses
which has first positively responded is controlled to
be connected.

4.(Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein
when the predetermined processing together with the one
of the other information processing apparatuses which
5 has first positively responded error ends, another
information processing apparatus which has positively
responded is controlled to be connected.

5.(Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in
10 the step of joining, when the response to the inquiry
is a negative response or no response exists, the
information processing apparatus joins in the other
wireless network.

15 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the
step of inquiring, the inquiry is performed by a
broadcast message for all information output terminals
in a single network.

20 7.(Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
the information processing apparatus wirelessly
communicates according to a wireless LAN method defined
by IEEE 802.11.

25 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the
information processing apparatus wirelessly
communicates in a communication mode according to an

infrastructure mode defined by IEEE 802.11.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus wirelessly
5 communicates in a communication mode according to an ad-hoc mode defined by IEEE 802.11.

10.(Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

10 means for receiving identification information for identifying each wireless network out of a plurality of wireless networks;

means for wirelessly joining in a wireless network identified by the identification information;

15 means for inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly joined wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses have a function of performing predetermined processing; and

20 means for joining in another wireless network identified by the other identification information in accordance with a response to the inquiry.

11. A program for causing a computer to execute a
25 method defined in claim 1.

12. A computer-readable recording medium which

records a program defined in claim 11.

13.(New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising,

- 5 a step of controlling connection to one of the other information processing apparatuses in accordance with a response to the inquiry.